

Application No.: 10/561,662

Docket No.: JCLA13942

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action objected drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) since the features recited in claims 19-20, 25-26 are not shown in drawings.

The Office Action objected Claims 21-25 and 27-30 since some typing errors are found.

The Office Action objected Claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112 since Claims 3 and 12 are unclear.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4, 19 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP09-112560.

The Office Action rejected Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-18 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP09-112560 in view of JP2002-364647.

The Office Action rejected Claims 10, 13 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP09-112560 in view of JP04-152296.

The Office Action rejected Claims 10, 13 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP0291691 in view of JP04-160224.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections addressed to claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, 21-22 and 27-28 for at least the reasons set forth below.

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Discussion of the drawing objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a) & 35 U.S.C. 112

1.Regarding to unclear in drawing and claims:

1.1 The applicant canceled Claims 19-20, 25-26.

1.2 In Examiner's opinion 2, it is recited that some typing errors "fro" should be amended into "from" in Claims 21-25, 27-30. Applicant like to point out that these typing errors should be amended into "for" not "from", because "a radial bearing surface" is for supporting a radial load.

1.3 In Examiner's opinions 3-4, they says that Claims 3 and 12 are unclear. Applicant deleted "(" and ")" in Claims 3 and 12.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

2.Regarding to the rejection under U.S.C. 102(b):

2.1 Regarding to Claims 1, 4 and 21, 22

JP09-112560 fails to disclose the feature of Claim 1 of the present invention, "the silde layer is formed by insert molding the slide material composition including a resin as a base material on the surface of the matrix".

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Since JP09-112560 fails to disclose at least the above feature of Claim 1 of the present invention, the rejection to Claim 1 is respectfully traversed and required to withdraw. The rejections to claims 4, 21-22 are required be withdraw accordingly.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

3.Regarding to the rejection under U.S.C. 103(a):

3.1 Regarding to Claims 1, 3, 5-9

[Operation advantage of Claim 1 of the present invention]

With the currently amended feature in Claim 1 of the present invention, "the silde layer is formed by insert molding the slide material composition including a resin as a base material on the surface of the matrix", a molten resin composition forming the slide layer enters the pores inside the surface layer from the surface openings on the predetermined surface of the matrix to be solidified at the time of molding the slide layer. Thereby, the slide layer firmly adheres to the surface of the matrix by a kind of anchor effect.

In this case, as is clear from the examination result on this description, the surface opening ratio of 20% or less brings in the above anchor effect sufficiently.

Moreover, the matrix which is made of an Fe-based sintered metal material having an Fe content of 90% weight% or more and the surface opening ratio thereof is less 50% result in progress of strength of the matrix and makes it possible to suppress generating cracks by rolling or sliding over the mating member on the contact surface. Therefore, high durability is obtained.

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[The Non-obviousness of Claim 1 of the present invention]

On the contrary, JP09-112560 discloses that surface opening ratio is set to 3-15%. JP2002-364647 discloses the method for joining plastic layer and sintered metal layer by press-fitting, pinning, coating, physical retaining only. Therefore, JP2002-36467 fails to disclose that the above two layers is formed integrally by insert molding.

Examiner makes his opinion (opinion 13) that JP4-160224 discloses the matrix is made of a Fe-base sintered metal material. However, it is NOT true. The second page of JP4-160224 (in the third Paragraph of the Embodiment) merely discloses "the sintered metal layer 1 is formed like a cylindrical shape from metallic powder like a Fe, Cu by powder metallurgy process". In JP4-160224, the sintered metal layer 1 is for fitting a sheet of resin 2 inner peripherally with adhesive. Therefore, JP4-160224 fails to postulate that the layer 1 has the contact surface which rolls and slides over a mating member.

In accordance with the above analysis, Claim 1 of the present invention is non-obvious over the cited references. Claims 3 and 5-9 are non-obvious over the cited references accordingly.

3.2 Regarding to Claims 10, 12-18, 27-28

With the same above analysis, Claim 10 of the present invention is non-obvious over the cited references. Claims 12-18 and 27-28 are non-obvious over the cited references accordingly.

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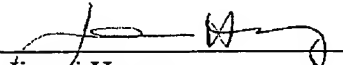
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, 21-22, 27-28 of the present application are patentable. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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